

to continue his work on behalf of his neighbors and build his law career. In recognition of Tom's outstanding service to the Commonwealth and ability to breach partisan divides, a Democratic Governor appointed him to a vacancy on the Kentucky Court of Appeals in 1987. Voters reelected him to that position twice, and his peers appointed him to serve as chief judge of the court of appeals, a position he held until 2004. By the time of his retirement, the entire Kentucky legal community recognized this once-upstart conservative as a widely revered senior statesman.

Throughout the course of his career, Tom made sure to expand the scope of his service beyond the courtroom and the ballot box. He maintained lifelong involvement with the WKU community, serving with distinction on the school's board of regents and as the WKU Alumni Association Board President. He received repeated recognition from community organizations based in and around Metcalfe County, including the local chamber of commerce and area development district. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet even named Thomas D. Emberton Bridge in Metcalfe County in his honor.

Along the way, Tom and his wife Julia Lee built an amazing home and family in Metcalfe County. His two children, Laura and Tom Jr., five grandchildren, and recently arrived great-grandchildren were the light of his life. I had the pleasure of visiting the Emberton family over the years and reminiscing with Tom about his campaign days and discussing the current state of politics and policy in the Commonwealth. He and Julia Lee also built a special relationship with my wife, Elaine, that all of us have cherished for many years.

I was shocked to hear of Tom's sudden passing last month in a fire, when he heroically saved his wife's life and perished inside his home. Elaine and I are mourning alongside the entire Emberton family and hope they can find some solace in this difficult time. On behalf of the entire Senate, I honor Tom for his service to Kentucky and offer prayers to the Emberton family as they memorialize Tom's incredible life and career.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOLLIS ALEXANDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, following a decade of service as Trigg County Judge-Executive, Hollis Alexander is retiring. He has spent 35 years in service to his constituents in a variety of roles and is now looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Hollis for his work on behalf of Kentucky and honoring him for his service to the Commonwealth.

Hollis got his start in public service through his work with the Cadiz Police Department, which he led as chief for nearly two decades before entering

elected office. Through his career in law enforcement, he became a well-known face to Trigg County locals. His work also caught the eye of statewide leaders, and when Trigg County's previous judge-executive stepped down to take a seat in the State senate, Kentucky's Governor appointed Hollis as his replacement.

Though originally a Democrat, Hollis joined scores of other Kentucky elected officials to switch his party registration and better reflect the conservative values of most of his constituents. Since his original appointment in 2013, Hollis won reelection twice—first as a Democrat, then as a Republican—and earned the trust and confidence of his neighbors.

Hollis lists Trigg County's fiscal strength as one of his proudest accomplishments in office. Through his successful stewardship of county revenues and expenses, he was able to upgrade local government facilities and equipment. Hollis has left Trigg County's government better than it was when he found it, making a mark on his community that his neighbors will feel for years to come.

Judge Alexander says he is looking forward to spending more time with his family—and especially his four grandchildren—after he takes a step back from his current role at this year's end. I know he certainly deserves it after three-and-a-half decades of fine service to Trigg County. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I wish Hollis the best of luck in the next step of his life and express my deep gratitude for his service to Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO HARRY BERRY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after 20 years of service as Hardin County judge-executive, my good friend Harry Berry is retiring. Over the past two decades, he has built a Kentucky-wide reputation for steadfast leadership and selfless service. Today, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Berry for his work and wishing him well in his retirement.

Harry took a circuitous route to public service in Hardin County. A Missouri native, he spent much of his early career in the Washington, DC, area, working with the CIA, Army, and other defense agencies to coordinate engineering projects around the world. When Harry decided to retire from that role, he and his wife Jill chose Hardin County as their new home; the county was close to Jill's parents in Hopkins County and offered robust services to the former military personnel who settled in the area after service at Fort Knox.

Harry is a self-described introvert who prefers to approach the world with the quiet, analytical approach he developed as a military engineer rather than the bombast common in politics. Still, he has a keen eye for organization and development, honed through 20 years in the Army and, upon moving

to Hardin County, spotted several local issues he thought he could try his hand at improving. His first run for public office was unsuccessful, but after living in Hardin County for only a few years, he won the county judge-executive race in 2002. He was the first Republican to ever occupy the office.

Twenty years later, Harry says his retail politicking has improved. But his real accomplishments in office have been largely behind the scenes: sound financial management, improved hiring and public services, upgraded government facilities, and extensive economic development spurred by his steady, capable leadership. Under Harry's purview, Hardin County has grown at a quick clip, leveraging its close connections to the Fort Knox military installation to foster new business and growth.

Beyond his public service, Harry has grown roots in Hardin County that will continue to deepen in his retirement. He has leaned into his community's extensive slate of organizations dedicated to caring for veterans, including the Disabled Veterans Association, the VFW, and the Military Officers Association. He promotes philanthropy and volunteerism through the Lions, Masons, and Shriners. As Harry takes a step back from elected office, I am sure these organizations will welcome his interest and energy.

Few leaders can move to a new community and, within only a few years, win an election to be that community's chief elected official. Fewer still can do so without any experience in public office. But Harry did so seamlessly and, 20 years later, has become an indispensable part of Hardin County government. I know I speak for many Kentuckians when I say I am sorry to see him leave this role but thankful for the two decades of service he dedicated to our Commonwealth. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I congratulate Judge Harry Berry on his well-earned retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY FOXWORTHY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Fleming County Judge-Executive Larry Foxworthy is stepping down after 20 years of work on behalf of his constituents. His keen management of Fleming County's finances and efforts to shore up government services have left a deep mark on his community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Foxworthy for his sound leadership and congratulating him on his retirement.

Larry and his wife Joyce are both lifelong residents of northeastern Kentucky's Fleming County, part of a region of the Commonwealth noted for its rolling farmland and historic small towns. Larry has dedicated himself to both preserving that area's heritage and charting a course toward a more vibrant future. As the county has grown in population and economic development over the past two decades,